Chile

The President of Chile Dr. Ricardo Lagos visited India from 18—22 January, 2005. The following three Agreements for cooperation were signed during the visit:

(i) Framework Agreement for Economic Cooperation.

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Chilean Agricultural Research Institute.

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding on Sanitary and Phytosanitary issues between the Ministries of Agriculture.

Venezuela

The President of Venezuela Hugo Chavez visited India from 4—7 March, 2005. The following agreements were signed during the visit;

(i) MoU on India-Venezuela Joint Commission

(ii) MoU on Cooperation in the field of Space

(iii) Agreement on cooperation in the field of Hydrocarbons

(iv) MoU in the Area of Biotechnology

(v) MoU between ONGC Videsh Ltd. and PDVSA, the Venezuelan State Petroleum Company

(vi) MoU between IRCON and IAFE, the Venezuelan Railway Authority

UN Convention on Law of the Seas

3166. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the UN Convention on Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) set a 2009 deadline for countries to submit their claims about the outer limit of their continental shelf beyond 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone;

(b) whether it is a also a fact that the UNCLOS requires that, if dispute is not settled, the disputed water would be declared international Water; and

(c) if so, the details of various claims made by India and their status with regard to claims of neighouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS) is the universally recognized regime, which has established a comprehensive framework for the regulation of all ocean space. The Convention entered into force on 16 November, 1994. India is a State Party to the Convention.

According to the Convention, a state has Territorial Waters of 12 Nautical Miles and an Exclusive Economic Zone of 200 Nautical Miles determined in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. As far as India is concerned, this is also the position reflected in the Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976.

Claims for a Continental Shelf beyond 200 Nautical Miles are to be submitted to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf by 12 May, 2009.

Collection and examination of necessary data are underway for the purpose of preparing and submitting India's claim for an extended continental Shelf to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, within the prescribed timeframe. In case of any overlapping claim between neighbouring countries, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, provides that the issue should be resolved by these countries bilaterally through negotiations.

Border trade between India and China

3167. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has shown its willingness to talks on border trade with India in Kashmir;

(b) if so, to what extent agreement between India and China on border trade through Kashmir has been reached;